

Dear Lil,

6/16/78

You are absolutely right! It does make me proud that you made 4.0. Terrific!

The work is going okay, more or less the way you hope, but there are so many of them with such iron pants!

The situation with Kim is unfortunate but you seem to have behaved not only properly - well. You do have to look out for your own interest. And there is a limit to what you can do for anyone who appears not to want to be helped.

Your analysis seems good, that she should finish up closer to home. Washington appears not ~~to~~ to have been good for her. Perhaps a change of environment will be good for her.

She has always been very good with me and to me and I appreciate it much. But I also began to wonder when she stopped coming here close and she and Lil had been for a while.

Whatever may ~~be~~ be basic part of her problem is involvement in the impossible, the political futilities you've described. It is one thing to have ~~Utopian~~ Utopian dreams but it is quite another matter to expect them to become real - and quickly.

I hope she comes out of it well - sound again as she was when I first knew her. Actually she has never been any other way with me - I've never seen her any other way. For which I'm glad because she was so good to me when I needed help. I'd like to remember her only as the fine person she was with me, not the sad person she seems to have become.

But let us hope that with help she does snap out of it.

You should sorrow for the plight of a friend but there is no responsibility that is yours. Don't let that weight on you, it shouldn't.

Spend what time you can preparing for the test, retain confidence in yourself so that something unexpected does not throw you, and you'll get a good enough score. Don't worry. Care and try but worry is self-defeating. And as by now you should be realizing, you have ample sound cause for being confident. You've survived some hard ones and just came up perfect, 4.0. (The score means less to me than how you have come through what you have come through.)

I've seen you mature. (Almost said grow up but then at your age you might misunderstand that.) Don't worry. You've got the mind and you're learning to use it. You'll do fine and you'll be a better person for the troubles you've experienced. You'll find that if we are the kind who learn we learn most by our mistakes. And from our real troubles, not the imaginary ones.

In the long run Kim may be a better person for her present problems. No consolation now, while she hurts so. But if as I think she can and will she does bootstrap it, she, too, will be a much better person for her suffering. From Boccaccio (dolor determineth imminent joyance) to Plato (things exist in opposites) this is an old truth.

I didn't know I was "in good with the man upstairs," but I have felt the occasional whisper of the angels' wings on the shoulder so I've put the fix on through what influence I have. You've got the inside drag now. You'll see.

We hope you have a good summer. Let us hear from you when you can but remember you've an objective, so first things first. And have a little fun at the same time.

Our best,